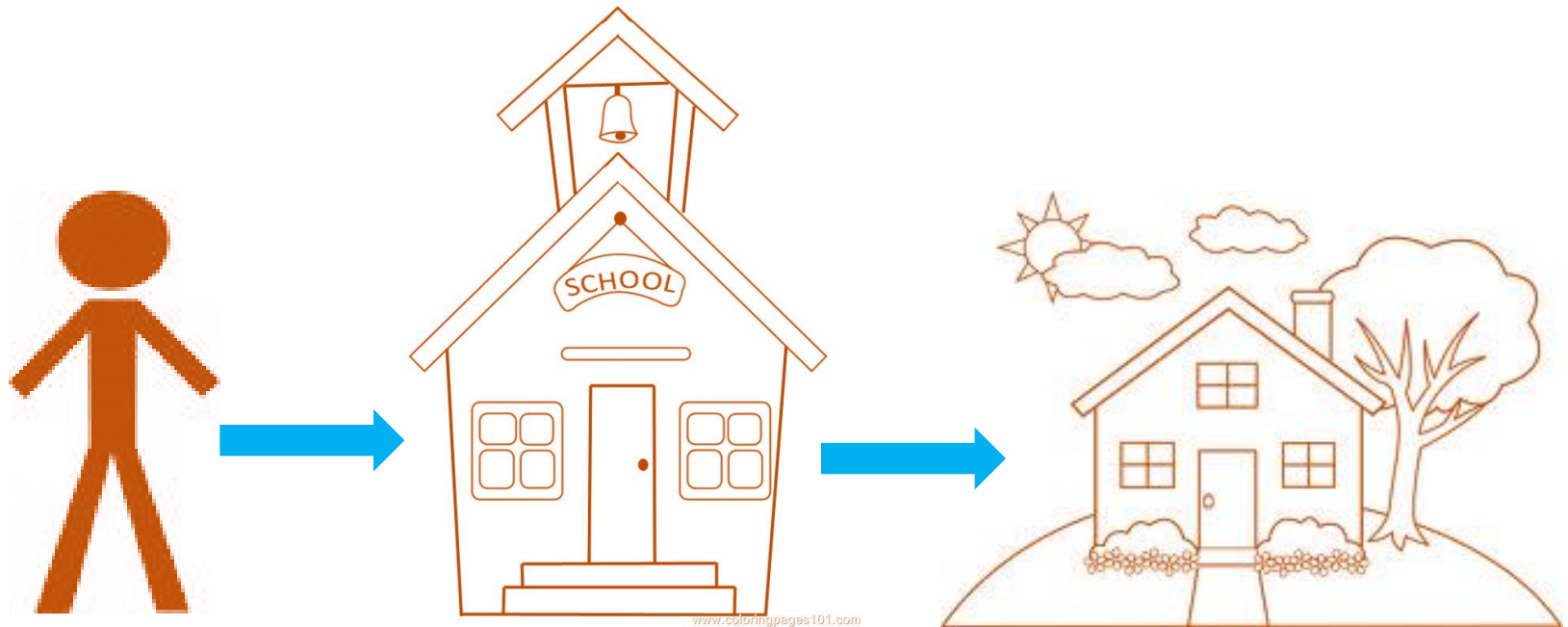# CALIFORNIA'S NEW SCHOOL FUNDING & ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM:
A Child Welfare Opportunity

Presentation to the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection
January 13, 2014

Linking School Stability to Safety

School Disruptions Lead to Placement Disruptions

- School disruptions put foster youth at high risk for placement disruption:
  - School discipline (suspension/expulsion)
  - Truancy
  - Lack of remedial supports
  - Unmet academic needs
  - Unmet behavioral health needs
  - Placement in alternative education or part-time programs
  - Unmet special education needs

School *In*-stability

California's foster youth:

- **Change schools** and homes an average of **6 times** while they are in care.

- They **lose 4-6 months of learning** after each school transfer.

- Often **move long distances** given the geographical size of the county, making transportation to schools of origin difficult or impossible.
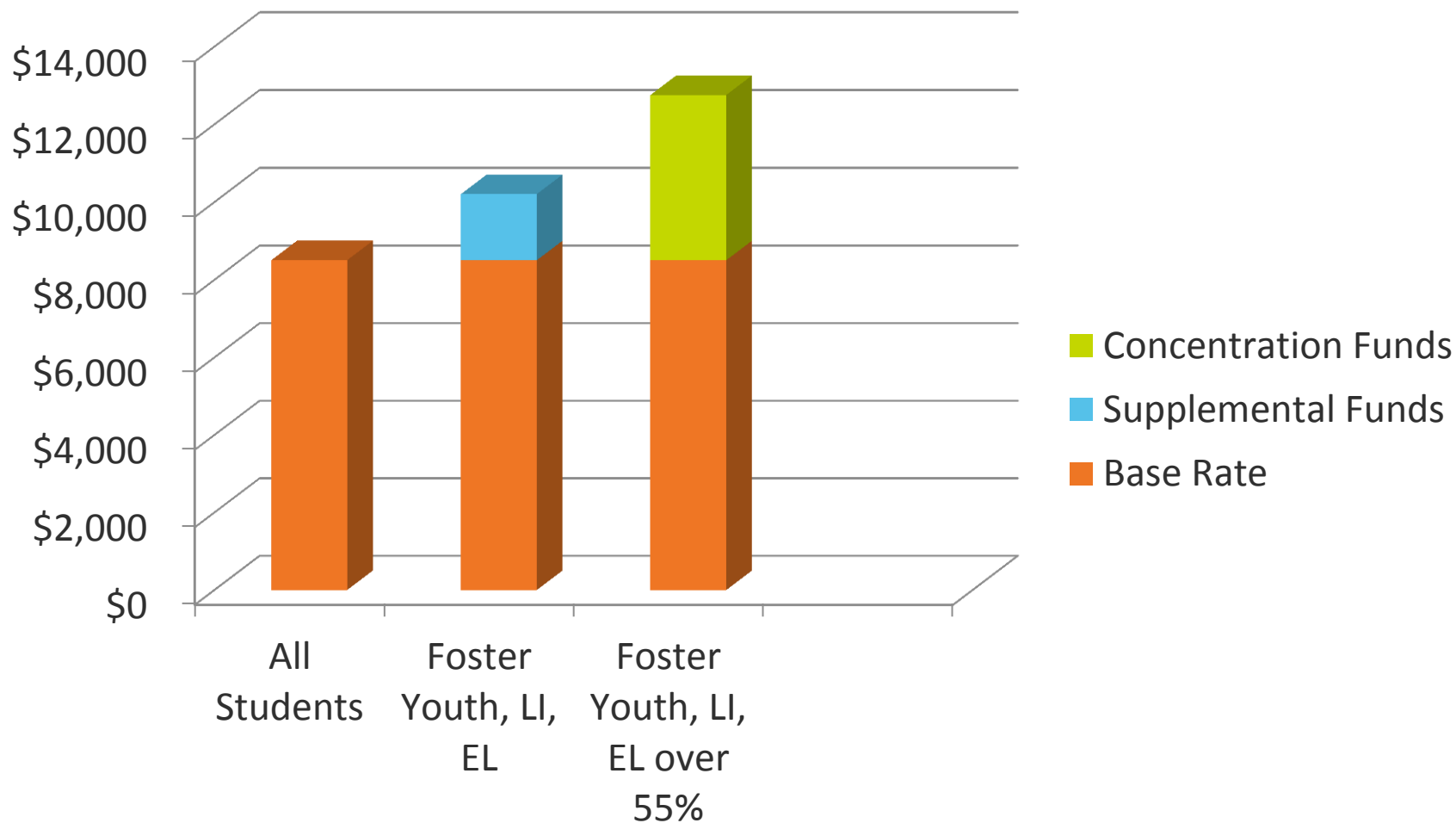
School Stability: Chris's Story

- 16 years old
- 10 different schools
- Moved 25 miles away from his home school with no means of transportation

"When my foster child was expelled from school for over a year, I had no choice but to return him to the foster care system. I couldn't stay home with him and he couldn't be left alone every day. When schools fail a child in care, that decision undermines the child's entire future. Schools don't seem to understand the devastation."

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

- A new system of school funding and accountability that provides:

  - *More funding* for students with the greatest needs:
    - **Foster youth,** low-income students, and English learners

  - *More flexibility* over how funds are used

  - *Greater accountability for closing the achievement gap* for foster youth and other at-risk students.

Funding for Students in Foster Care

8 State Priorities

1. Student Achievement
2. Student Engagement
3. Other Student Outcomes
4. School Climate
5. Parental Involvement
6. Basic Services
7. Implementation of Common Core State Standards
8. Course Access

Model LCAP

- Coalition Members:
  - The Alliance for Children's Rights
  - Public Counsel
  - National Center for Youth Law
  - Advancement Project
  - Fostering Media Connections
  - Patti Armani, representing DCFS
  - Hillsides

8 State Priorities

1. Student Achievement
2. Student Engagement
3. Other Student Outcomes
4. School Climate
5. Parental Involvement
6. Basic Services
7. Implementation of Common Core State Standards
8. Course Access

The Model LCAP: School Stability

School districts will work with each other and DCFS to develop and facilitate a *county-wide protocol* and create MOUs *to ensure foster youth have access to transportation* so they can *remain in their school of origin.*

Support LCFF

- Endorse the Model LCAP
- Encourage DCFS to partner with schools to ensure LCFF fulfills its promise to our foster youth.

www.kids-alliance.org

(213) 368-6016

Jill Rowland
j.rowland@kids-alliance.org

Molly Dunn
m.dunn@kids-alliance.org